to a well-regulated procedure in regard to land assignment. Although in the past the whole State has undergone a survey and a portion of it has even been resurveyed, and although a system of land records maintenance was introduced some years back, the survey is now found to be very imperfect and often erroneous and quite out of date and the maintenance of land records is an altogether neglected chapter in the administrative history of the State. In very many cases demarcation stones only exist in name and where they do really exist they rarely conform to proper description and size and are seldom in the right places and the State and the private citizen do not know their respective limits. Lands whose reservation for communal purposes has received the sanction of Government have been freely encroached upon, and vast areas of land not yet assigned are either in the enjoyment of private individuals or are not found in the lists of lands recognised to be available for assignment. To rectify this state of affairs which is alike unsatisfactory to the ryot and detrimental to governmental revenues and communal interests and which is very largely the result of the ignorance of survey on the part of responsible revenue officers and the absence of method and organisation in the work of the expert survey officers, measures have been adopted for imparting a working knowledge of survey and maintenance of land records to a body of young men selected from the services for their good work and good educational qualifications and for sending them to the taluks to rectify errors in survey, clear all arrears in sub-division work, relieve the Tahsildars of the largely routine, though very important, work of effecting *pokkuvaravu* (patta transfer) and give them all the local help required for the right disposal of land. These officers will also detect all encroachments on communal *porambokes* and other Government lands and take the necessary steps for having them registered, if such registry is unobjectionable, or vacated if the occupations on them are objectionable. These responsible and trained officers, who have been styled Assistant Tahsildars, will thus relieve Tahsildars of a substantial share of their work and enable the latter to devote their attention better to their other multifarious duties and they will prepare the ground in a couple of years for the conduct of the resettlement which is already overdue in some taluks and is very necessary for the removal of the existing glaring inequalities in the incidence of assessment and the simplification of the highly complex system of land tenures now prevalent in the country. The first batch of these officers has already been trained and fifteen of them have been posted to a corresponding number of taluks. The training of the second batch has just commenced. Other questions connected with land revenue reform, such as the writing up of the land revenue registers which are now very imperfect and out of date and the adoption of measures for the early automatic settlement of the land revenue demand of the year soon after its close, the translation into the vernaculars of the more important portions of the Land Revenue Manual for the convenience of the public, the adjustment of the territorial limits of *pakuthies* by the bifurcation of the too unwieldy and the amalgamation of the too small, the simplification of the accounts and registers to be maintained in the *pakuthi* cutcherries, the freeing of Tahsildars from magisterial and other work to enable them to do their revenue work with undivided attention and with greater promptitude and thoroughness, are engaging the attention of Government.

8. Irrigation.—The next point that claims our attention in relation to the agriculture is irrigation. It is common knowledge that there is no unlimited scope for the extension of irrigation in Travancore. The only possible irrigation scheme of considerable magnitude, *viz.*, the Kodayar Project, has already been completed. It is however, a matter for regret that the ryots who own lands commanded by the State channels have been very slow in availing themselves of the benefits of the scheme and that there are over 10,000 acres of land still remaining to be converted. It is possible to remove the obstacles that might lie in the way of the conversion of lands and to go to the ryots to afford encouragement, both by advice and money advances, to enable them to go ahead in the work of conversion, and to take effective steps for the acquisition of lands required for communal purposes—a matter lost sight of in the past—necessitates the appointment of a special officer, possessing adequate local knowledge, has been appointed, and much good will result from his labours. The only other irrigation project of any magnitude is the one known as the Atirapalli Project across the

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Chalakudi river, which is intended to irrigate about 2,000 acres of land in Travancore and which has to be carried out with the concurrence of and in conjunction with the Cochin Government. It may interest you to learn that both the Governments are now engaged in examining this project. Nor have the Government forgotten the minor irrigation tanks which form a special feature of the taluks of Vilavankod and Neyyattinkara. I recently inspected some of those tanks and I have proposed a scheme for their restoration at the joint cost of the Government and the ryot. Briefly put, the scheme is that Government should restore the tanks solely at their cost in the first instance and recover three-fourths of such cost from the ryots interested in easy instalments and that all this should be done in the course of half a dozen years, by ear-marking a definite sum yearly for the purpose. The further progress of the scheme will depend upon the response the ryots make to this proposal.

9. Development Departments.—Agriculture.—We now come to a consideration of the Development Departments, under which head we may suitably bring Co-operation, Agriculture with Fisheries, and Industries with Technical and Commercial Education. The Departments of Geology, Exise and Forests without whose help the development departments mentioned above cannot obtain much of the raw material required for their working, will also be simultaneously considered. The first thing that strikes one on an examination of the condition of these departments is the utter lack of co-ordination and correlation among them. Each of these departments has so far failed to make use of the help that can be rendered or the comparative experience that can be afforded by the others, and team work of the right sort, on which the cumulative success of these departments so largely depends, is conspicuous by its absence. Even the scientific equipment in men and material such as laboratories, staff of analysts, etc., are separate for each department, with the result that the equipment in every case is much below the mark while it could be brought up to the mark were it common to all the departments. The heads of these departments seldom meet and confer or consult. The only development department that has made some headway is that of Agriculture, and even here there is considerable room for improvement in the work of demonstration and propaganda as in scientific research. Only the fringe of many vital problems has been touched, and a good deal of spade work has still to be done before the foundations of the department can be said to be truly laid. No serious attempt has hitherto been made to tackle the problem of the industries subsidiary to agriculture and fisheries, and the want of capital and co-operative spirit which [illegible] for the development of these industries, has not yet been remedied. [illegible] should not be taken as underestimating the results of the work the Agricultural Department has achieved so far. With the limited funds and staff placed at his disposal the Director has done a good deal, especially in the directions of popularising scientific manures, demonstrating on ryots' lands, combating pests, carrying on research and analysing soils. He is just now engaged in tackling the problems of punja cultivation with the help of the motor plough, of opening new demonstrational farms, of improving the local breeds of cattle by importing sires of better milking strains and greater capacity for work, and of popularising fish curing and fish oil industries. Finally, he has been endeavouring to popularise with a certain amount of success the cultivation of the mulberry and the rearing of the silkworm, and the Government have recently sanctioned his proposal to ear-mark some blocks of land in the Nedumangad taluk for assignment to silkworm rearers. When he secures the help of a properly qualified executive assistant whose appointment has been recently sanctioned, he will no doubt be able to add to the efficiency of his department. But the work that still remains to be done to bring the industry up to its level in advanced countries and make Travancore less dependent on imported food is far greater in magnitude than what has already been achieved. In this connection, I may state that the value of Government loans for agricultural improvements is little understood and that although a Regulation on the subject exists no rules have been framed to give practical effect to it. The necessary rules and table of equated repayments are under preparation.

10. Industries.—The Department of Industries is comparatively far younger, having been brought into existence only about a couple of years ago, and

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